

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8754
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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EEWT, ENRG, UR
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. FIRMS(S) IN SOVIET OFF-
SHORE DRILLING PROJECT NEAR SAKHALIN

REF: MOSCOW 13223, MOSCOW 5842,

1. MARTIN MOSVOLA, A NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS
OWNER OF MOSVOLD SHIPPING CO. (KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY) AND FEDERAL
MOTORSHIP CORPORATION (21 WEST STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK)
VISITED COMOFF SEPT 8 AND SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY
SOVIETS THROUGH ONE MR. LITOV OF SUDOIMPORT IN OSLO, REGARDING
SUPPLIES OF OFF-SHORE DRILLING EQUIPMENT, TRAINING OF SOVIET CREWS,
AND USE OF EXPERT AMERICAN PERSONNEL FOR DRILLING OPERATIONS
OFF COAST OF SAKHALIN ISLAND. ACCORDING TO MOSVOLD,
DRILLING SHOULD TAKE PLACE OFF SAKHALIN'S SOUTHWEST COAST
NEAR KHOLMSK AND OFF THE NORTHEAST COAST NEAR KATANGLI. AS
BOTH AREAS ARE CLOSED MILITARY ZONES, SOVIETS WISHED TO MINIMIZE
FOREIGN PRESENCE ON DRILLING RIGS AND WERE PLANNING TO SEND THIRTY
SOVIETS TO US FOR TRAINING BY UNNAMED FIRM AT UNDISCLOSED LOCATION
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BEGINNING IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. MOSVOLD ESTIMATED, HOWEVER,

THAT ABOUT TWENTY AMERICAN SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL WOULD BE EMPLOYED ON RIG. ACCORDING TO MOSVOLD, THIS WILL BE FIRST DRILLING OPERATION IN SAKHALIN'S OFF-SHORE WATERS.

2. COMMENT: COMOFF WHO SPOKE WITH MOSVOLD WAS NOT FULLY CONVERSANT WITH PREVIOUS REPORTING (REFTELS, AMONG OTHERS) ON SUBJECT OF SOVIET OFF-SHORE DRILLING PROJECTS, THUS DID NOT INQUIRE MORE DEEPLY AS TO REASON WHY SOVIETS WOULD HAVE MADE INQUIRIES THROUGH MOSVOLD RATHER THAN TO US SUPPLIER FIRMS DIRECT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, US FIRM GLOBAL MARINE LOST OUT EARLIER THIS YEAR IN COMPETITION TO SUPPLY DRILLING SHIP FOR SAKHALIN OFF-SHORE PROJECT. WE REPORTED (REFTEL A), HOWEVER, THAT SOME GOOD POSSIBILITIES FOR US FIRMS TO SUPPLY SEVERAL TO-BE-CONSTRUCTED SOVIET RIGS WITH UNDERWATER DRILLING GEAR, INCLUDING A RIG REPORTEDLY SLATED FOR USE IN WATERS OFF SAKHALIN, EXISTED. PERHAPS ALLEGED SOVIET INQUIRY TO MOSVOLD REFLECTS THESE POSSIBILITIES. OSLO AND DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INQUIRE MORE ABOUT SCOPE OF OPERATIONS OF MOSVOLD SHIPPING CO., A/S, (TELEPHONE: 21060, KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY) AND FEDERAL MOTORSHIP CORPORATION (TELEPHONE: DI 4-7036, NEW YORK). WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RESULTS OF ANY INQUIRIES WHICH MAY BE UNDERTAKEN. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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